



Hamilton

**- MINUTES -**  
**COMMITTEE AGAINST RACISM**  
**Tuesday March 27, 2012, 6:30 p.m.**  
**City Hall, 71 Main Street West - Room 192**

---

**Present:** Joe Rhodes, Tyrone Childs, Winston Morrison, Yim Chung, Amirah Hassan, Roger Cameron, Wael Ghuneim  
**Also Present:** Maxine Carter, Jennifer Mak, Jaffar Hayat, May-Marie Duwai-Sowa - City of Hamilton's Access & Equity Office, Judith Ngan(HWDSB), City Councillor Brian McHattie,  
**Regrets:** Taimur Qasim (on leave), Baldeep Virk  
**Absent:** Ismail Baris Oz, Nerene Virgin, Jessica Brennan, Zafar Siddiqui, Ashok Kumar

1. **Welcome and Introductions.**
  - o All were welcomed
2. **Declaration of Interest.**
  - o None declared
3. **Review of Agenda.**

Under New Business:

  - 8.2 Coalition of Cities Against Racism
  - 8.3 Hope in the Cities

**W. Morrison/A. Hassan**

To accept the agenda with the additions.

**CARRIED.**

4. **Approval of Minutes February 28, 2012.**

**J. Rhodes/Y. Chung**

That the minutes of February 28, 2012 be approved.

**CARRIED.**

5. **Matters Arising From Minutes.**

**5.1 Report from M. Carter on behalf of Fire Chief, Rob Simonds regarding the Fire Fighter Recruitment Process**

5.1.1 Councillor McHattie to follow up with Fire Chief regarding the outcome of recruitment event and testing fees.

**5.2 Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB).**

Judith Ngan from HWDSB or her designate, will be attending future committee meetings, as requested.

**5.3 Housing and Homelessness, Housing Services: The Housing and Homelessness Action Plan.**

- M. Carter followed up regarding email that was sent. Staff from Housing Services have expressed interest in coming back and requested that Committee propose possible dates.

**W. Morrison/A. Hassan**

That committee invite Jenny Vengris to an upcoming meeting to present follow up on housing and homelessness project.

**CARRIED.**

**5.4 Hillbilly Heaven Co-op Placement**

Judith Ngan to provide follow up regarding co-op placement for Hill Billy Heaven.

**6. Presentations**

There were no presentations.

**7. Business Items: Work Plan Reports.**

**7.1 Report from the Chair**

- The Chair will present the resource centre proposal to Status of Women Committee, Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities and LGBTQ committee. Dates to be determined.
- M. Carter updated committee regarding South Asian Heritage month celebration. Judith mentioned that HWDSB will be observing both Asian Heritage Month and South Asian Heritage Month.
- Joe Rhodes attended the Hamilton Police Services International Day Against Racial Discrimination event.
- The Chair informed the committee that the “And Still I Rise Exhibit” is on a month-long display at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of City Hall, in recognition of the International Day Against Racial Discrimination. He encouraged committee members to view the exhibit.
- The Chair advised committee that a letter has been sent to Aboriginal Advisory Committee requesting a representative to sit on CAR.

**7.2 Sub-committee I – Symposium & Resource Centre**

- The Committee is facing a scheduling conflict and will discuss among members to select a specific meeting date, to address the time constraint.

**7.3 Sub-committee II – Participatory Democracy & Anti-Racism Policies**

- Miscommunication of meeting time led to a rescheduling of the meeting. A new meeting date is yet to be determined.

**7.4 Sub-committee III – Education, Training & Awareness Raising**

- No updated from Z. Siddiqui regarding a display at City Hall or co-hosting an event with CAR in May which is South Asian Heritage Month.

**7.5.1 Follow up on Hate Crimes Report- Sgt. Nancy Lantz HPS**

Councillor Brian McHattie to follow up with Hamilton Police Services Board and Chief.

**7.5.2 Hamilton Spectator**

- A reporter with the Spectator, Nicole MacIntyre's contact information was circulated to the committee members. N. MacIntyre would like to connect with members of diverse communities to give them an opportunity to share their personal stories.
- Joe Rhodes advised committee that he has picked up 9,000 pages of records relating to the Burnie Miller case for review. The Spectator discovered 75 errors in the trial and 100 pages of original affidavit were missing. Osgoode Hall is deeply interested in the case, but does not have human resources to dedicate to facilitate the process.

**8. New Business.**

**8.1 Special Investigations Unit investigation involving Constable Ryan Tocher**

- The Committee reviewed the article in the Spectator detailing the SIU investigation of Constable Ryan Tocher. M. Carter informed committee that a request has already been forwarded to the SIU for someone to present at the April meeting and is awaiting a response. Councillor McHattie offered to assist. The committee members will develop questions to be posed to the SIU representative, during the upcoming presentation.

**8.2 Coalition of Cities Against Racism**

M. Carter shared the brochure and mandate of the CCARD with committee, which was initiated by UNESCO in 2004. 53 municipalities across Canada have signed on to the Coalition. Committee would like to see that Hamilton becomes a member of the coalition.

**J. Rhodes/ T. Childs**

That the Committee Against Racism recommend to the Mayor and Council that the City of Hamilton, sign onto the Coalition of Cities Against Racism and Discrimination and become a member.

**CARRIED**

**T.Childs / A. Hassan**

That the Committee Against Racism send a delegation to speak to the recommendation to join the Coalition of Cities Against Racism and Discrimination.

**CARRIED**

**8.3. Initiatives of Change, Hope in the Cities Initiatives**

Tyrone Childs shared the mandate of Initiatives for Change project which started in Virginia, comprising of people of diverse cultures, nations, beliefs, backgrounds who work towards transforming society through change in individuals own lives. Hope in the Cities is a program of Initiatives of Change. It is a global network committed to building trust across the world's divide. A conference was planned in Hamilton in 2010, but was cancelled. The conference could potentially take place in 2012 in partnership with the International Communication Forum.

**W. Morrison / J. Rhodes**

To accept Tyrone's presentation.

**CARRIED**

**9. Information Sharing**

**9.1** April 14, 2012 – Sikhs of Hamilton-Wentworth, Stoney Creek and Brantford invite committee to attend a seminar titled "Know the Sikhs". The event is scheduled from 10:30am to 1:00pm

**9.2** Support for Christopher Charles

Joe Rhodes informed committee that Christopher Charles is a Hamiltonian and a 2<sup>nd</sup> place contestant on Canada's Got Talent. It was noted that Hamilton's media has not highlighted this story. The committee members were encouraged to spread the word to the local media and community members.

**9.3** Hamilton Media Advisory Committee

The Committee was advised about a call for applicants to sit on the Hamilton Media Advisory Committee. M. Carter will send out application forms to any interested committee members to fill vacant committee spots. Staff to prepare Joe's application and present to him for review, before submitting.

**T. Childs / J. Rhodes**

That the Committee send an application on behalf of Joe Rhodes to serve as Committee Against Racism's representative on Hamilton Media Advisory Committee.

**CARRIED**

**10. Next Meeting April 24, 2012.**

**11. Adjournment.**

**W. Morrison/Y. Chung**

Motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.